THE OUTLOOK

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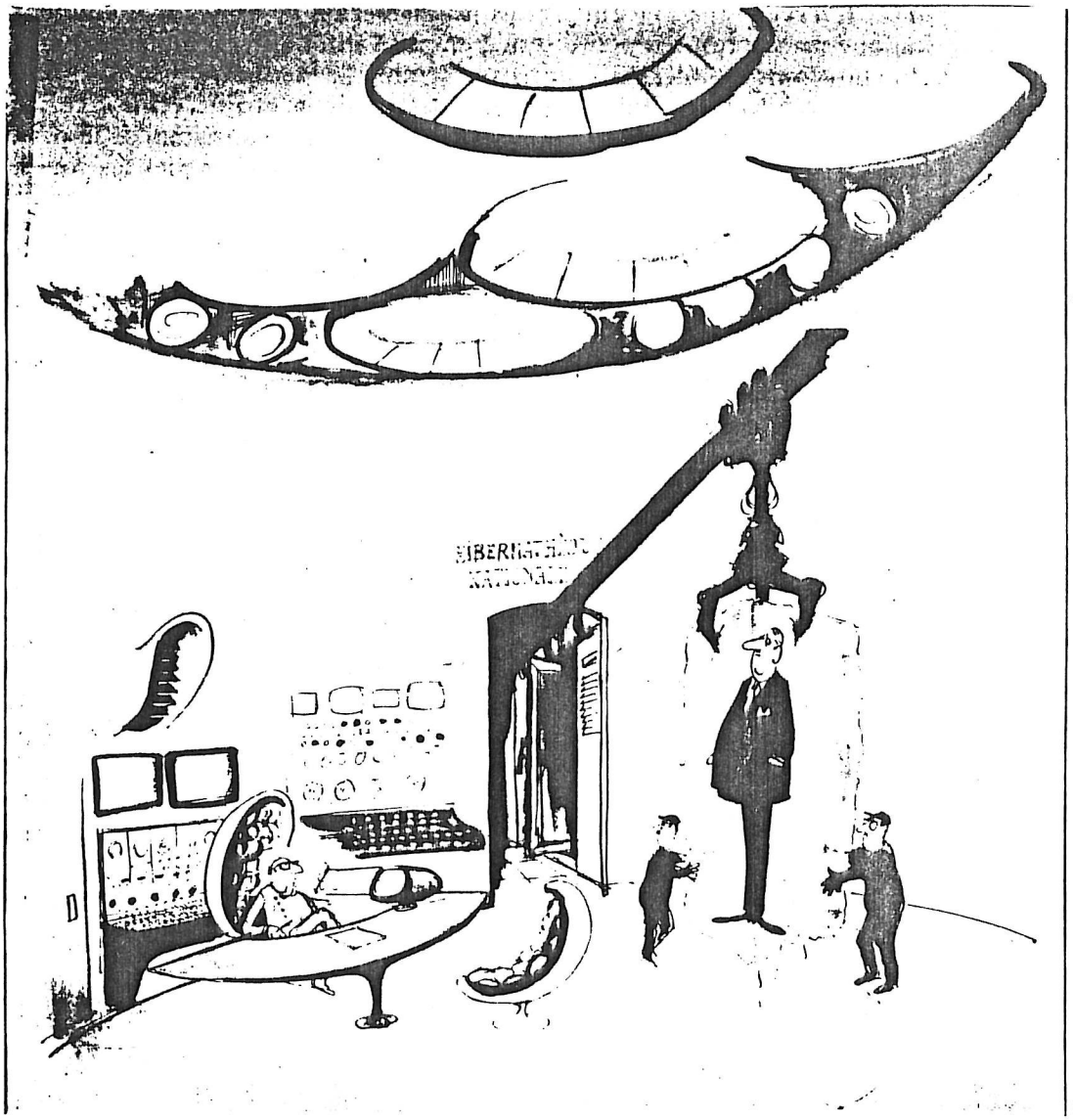

Dessin Calyi

This one is in suspended animation. Be ready to run.
(Reprinted from France Soir. Caption changed.)

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PONTIAC FORUM

The forum, held at Pat Dewey's home on Thursday evening, March 12th, was not heavily attended, but again, like the Monroe forum, the discussion was interesting. Especially so were the comments and attitudes of Mr. Max Evans, funeral director, and Mrs. Lillian James, insurance saleswoman. These people viewed the cryonics concept both as individuals and as professional people.

One aspect that stood out above all others was the immediate and intense interest demonstrated by everyone present when mercy freezing was mentioned. This common reaction caused CSM members present to consider the possibility of further investigating this issue.

FRENCH UPROAR

For its 25th anniversary PARIS SOIR, a daily newspaper, published a special issue oriented to the future, specifically, November, 1994, which will be the paper's 50th anniversary.

In her feature article, "The Hope That Came From the Cold", Myriam Esau launched a virulent attack against the cryonics movement and the Cryonics Society of France. She labeled workers in this field as "Assassins by Ice", and the leader of the movement (unnamed in the article) as a sort of "paramedical Christ".

After accusing the Society of freezing people before death and storing them in a non-existent cryotorium near Bastia, of being insincere, interested only in money and guilty of betraying those to whom cryonic suspension is proposed, Miss Esau recommended that cryonics workers be "severely condemned."

The article caused consternation among members of the society. Anatole Dolinoff, president of the society responded with a letter of rebuttal to PARIS SOIR and was able to secure discussion time on a number of Paris television and radio programs.

However, this reporter wonders if the article in PARIS SOIR might have been a deliberate attempt to introduce a controversial issue, mercy freezing, in a manner that was intended to be provocative.

Miss Esau's article mentioned work done by Jean Rostand and A. S. Parkes with bird sperm and glycerine, of Louis Rey with chicken embryo hearts and of Professor Andjus of Yugoslavia with living tissues and organs--all animate freezings.

Information on Robert Ettinger's book, THE PROSPECT OF IMMORTALITY, (French title, IS MAN IMMORTAL?) was correct as was the account of the freezing of Professor James Bedford.

But the reporting of the Cryonics Society of France was preposterously scrambled and false. No names were mentioned. Dolinoff has expressed the opinion that Miss Esau confused the Cryonics Society with the Cryonics Association. Roland Messonier, who has led the latter organization was at one time associated with Dolinoff. The two men split apart because of philosophical differences and the result was the two cryonic organizations.

A close analysis of the Esau article might lead one to believe either that it was irresponsible journalism or a clever attempt to create discussion through provocation. The result, as has been noted above, was a spate of public appearances and writings by Dolinoff and others.

Also, one cannot help but wonder why Miss Esau made the patently untrue accusation of freezing before death. At this point in history such action might be regarded as homicide in any country. Could it be that Myriam Esau was trying to set up an issue?

FREEZE THE LIVING?

(The following is R. C. W. Ettinger's opinion on the issue involved)

In regarding as suitable cryonic patients only those whose death certificates have been signed, we have escaped most legal problems and we have set up a kind of Pascal's wager, a situation in which there is nothing to lose, physically, since a failure merely means that the patient remains dead. However, we have lost many potential advantages which may be crucial to the cryonics program.

For instance, benefits to patients are obvious in the classic example of the terminal patient with an incurable disease. Since he will soon be dead anyway (barring an extremely unlikely medical break-through in time to save him, or an equally unlikely spontaneous remission), why not freeze him before clinical death? There would be a less deteriorated body and more important, no delay in preparation. We know from sad experience that prediction of death dates is extremely difficult and often highly unreliable. Also it is difficult to maintain a top standby alert condition throughout the days or even weeks when death appears imminent.

To freeze the patient before legal death would raise serious problems, both in law and public relations; but these may not be as formidable as we have assumed. We can begin to understand this by recalling (1) Professor Suda's cat brain experiment, and (2) the heart transplants of Drs. Barnard, Cooley, et al.

Dr. Suda's cat brains showed nearly normal brain wave tracings when thawed after several months in frozen storage. Since experts believe brain waves represent the best single criterion of life, we could make a fairly good case for saying that these cats survived freezing and thawing, and that human patients similarly frozen might also remain alive. In other words, it is not certain that freezing with present techniques is lethal, even by present standards.

In regard to heart transplants, when the surgeon removes the recipient's damaged heart, his vital functions must be artifically maintained until the new heart can take over. Nor is there any guarantee of a favorable outcome: Philip Blaiberg's life was lengthened by the operation, but other lives have been shortened by identical efforts. The important point to remember is that judgment was made that the operation would improve the patient's over-all chances, with the surgeon, patient and family sharing responsibility. There was no impropriety even though the life functions were interrupted and a favorable outcome was not guaranteed.

There are many secondary benefits in freezing the terminally ill, both to the patient and the program. Much suffering could be avoided, and much expense; the money needed to prolong the agony of dying could be applied, instead toward freezing. There would be tremendous psychological advantage in "treating the ill" rather than "scavenging the dead". "Suspended animation" is enormously more appealing than "cryogenic interment". And while it would open a new legal can of worms, there are great potential advantages in not having to treat the patients as corpses.

If a physician took such a step on his own, he might be able to convince a court he was within his rights-assuming someone had entered a complaint. But it would be risky. Perhaps we should seek a legal determination in advance--

a declaratory judgment" granting permission ahead of time, under certain specified conditions. This has been discussed--particularly in the San Francisco Bay Area--but so far nothing has been done. I think we should seriously consider such action and soon.

CELLULAR IMMORTALITY

Conley Hall of Monroe sent OUTLOOK the following pertinent item:

Secrets of the Human Cell

Adapted from "Secrets of the Human Cell" by J. D. Radcliff, and "The Exquisite Basic Molecule of Life" by Rutherford Platt. (Pages 32 and 33, "Our Human Body Its Wonders and Its Care", The Readers' Digest Association, Inc. 1962)

"One of the most fascinating features of cells is their potential immortality. In 1912 the late Alexis Carrel of the Rockefeller Institute snipped out a piece of chicken heart. Periodically it was fed nourishing broth, and from time to time excess tissue was trimmed away. The cells remained alive for thirty-four years and were permitted to die only when the experiment had fulfilled its usefulness."

A CHANGE OF PACE

Summer vacation is still several months away for most of us.

But May in Los Angeles beckons those who can get away the 15th and 16th for the Third Annual Cryonics Conference to be held at the Airport Marina Hotel and Tower, handsome and luxurious accomodations.

The conference will include technical and semi-technical presentations on all aspects of Cryonics and related life-extension sciences, as well as a banquet, entertainment, exhibits, panel discussions, and tours of local cryonics storage facilities.

Participating in the technical portion of the conference are: Professor Robert C. W. Ettinger, Cryonics Society of Michigan; Kenneth R. Brizzel, Ph.D., M. D., Head, Department of Environmental Health, Tulane University; Peter Gouras, M. D., Head, Section on Ophthalomology Physiology, National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Stroke; Stanley W. Mayer, Ph. D. (Physical Chemistry), Aerospace Corporation, Los Angeles; Professor Rita Cestellano (Anthropology), Pierce College, California; Ronald Havelock, Ph. D. (Sociology), University of Michigan.

Additonal technical participants include Ralph Goldman, M. D., Department of Medicine, U. C. L. A.; Robert Enzmann, Ph. D. (E. E./Geol.) Northeastern University; Benjamin Frank, M. D., author of Nucleic Acid Therapy for Aging and Degenerative Diseases; and Herman Feifel, Ph. D., Chief Psychologist, Veterans Administration Outpatient Clinic, Los Angeles (probably as a part of a discussion panel).

Entertainers committed for the conference include Dick Clair (Clair & McMahon comedy team), Kaye Ballard, and Dorsey Burnett (Pop rolk and country musician). Also, Phyllis Diller threatens to appear.

The week end promises to be packed with excitement and ideas. So shake out your piggy banks and make reservations before it's too late. (Registration form appears on page 7.)

EUROPEAN NOTE

A new corporation for commercial cryonic interment is under consideration, as reported in the January (1970) issue of the BULLETIN OF THE CRYONICS SOCIETY OF FRANCE.

To be called EUROPEAN CRYONICS CORPORATION, the organization would draw

stockholders from existing cryonics societies in Germany, England, Austria, Spain and France and would be in actuality, a Swiss corporation, located in that country and with a Swiss Administrator, appointed by a committee consisting of the presidents of the Societies in the countries providing the stockholders.

With this development in view, attention is drawn to the state of decentralization in American cryonics organizations. A need for consolidation seems apparent. But the question arises as to what the relationship between commercial corporations and Cryonic Societies should be. The Cryonics Society of New York and that of Southern California have both become involved with commercial corporations. Such decentralized operations have not proven to be entirely compatible in relation to the individual local organizations. Also, the intermingling of profit and non-profit aspects and facilities has resulted in some ambiguity.

If it is true that in union there is strength, it would seem that some move should be made to draw existing Societies closer together, or at least have some centralization at the top. It is possible that organized unification of the Societies might facilitate merging, or at least cooperation, of commercial corporations as well. It is hoped that some discussion in this area will take place at the May conference.

BOOK REVIEW: SURVIVAL AND THE BOMB

Survival and the Bomb: Methods of Civil Defense, edited by Eugene P. Wigner; Indiana University Press, 1969

Reviewing this collection of essays was especially pleasurable because the views presented by the authors, scholars in various fields, were so similar to many that I have held for some years.

Eugene Wigner (who contributed an essay as well as editorial services) thinks bomb shelters make good sense. Although opponents of civil defense won an overwhelming victory in the early sixties, this issue is heating up again now that the Soviet Union appears to be gaining military superiority.

Since a possible nuclear war would affect us all individually (and could also affect the future of the cryonics movement) it seems worth while to touch some of the bases, beginning with some old but apparently still prevalent misconceptions, dealt with either explicitly or implicitly by the authors.

Overkill

Have we reached a point of "overkill" in nuclear weapons? Well, we have overkill capability in rifle bullets, since we have enough to riddle every Russian--provided they would be obliging enough to line up for the firing squad. For that matter, we have enough beans in Boston to give them all severe heartburn--if we could only make them eat. In that sense--and in that sense only--we have nuclear overkill capacity. Under the conditions of actual warfare, with a highly uncooperative enemy and imperfect weapons, there is no likelihood, at present armament levels, that we could destroy even a third of the U. S. S. R. and under some conceivable conditions only a small fraction of that. Roughly the same can be said of the other side, although the U. S. is more vulnerable, its people and assets being more concentrated in cities.

Defense Against Nuclear Weapons

Is defense against nuclear weapons impossible? The answer, even if you are in a prime target area, is a clear "no". A good blast shelter will survive an air burst at any range, and a 10 megaton surface burst at about 1/4 mile; hence if we all build blast shelters, almost all will survive. (Curtis Henderson,

President of the Cryonics Society of New York, has one, and the percentage of shelters among our members seems much higher than average.)

Does a fatalistic view make sense? ("If I make it, OK; if my number is up, I'll die.") The alternatives are not that simple--come through unscathed or be exterminated. Instead, you--and your family--may be alive but sick, hurt, hungry, thirsty, cold, wet and slightly radioactive.

Will the survivors envy the dead? Many people have said they would not want to live in a post-holocaust world. Yet we are the descendants of a long line of survivors, many of whom had it very rough indeed. To be sure, the psychology is somewhat different when you have been cast out of heaven (or at least purgatory) into hell; nevertheless, few of us would kill our children just to spare them hardship. Furthermore, it is likely that many parts of the country would suffer few or no direct effects, and life there could continue civilized and even comfortable.

Will nuclear war necessarily be "total", with massive attacks against population centers? There are many possible scenarios involving limited war, interrupted for negotiations and ending in a truce. Again your chance of survival will be improved by the availability of a shelter.

Shelters

Isn't a shelter useless in a firestorm, or against gas or germ warfare? Only the most elaborate shelters would be likely to suffice in these conditions; but firestorms occur only in special situations which are rare in this country, and chemical and bacteriological weapons appear unlikely to be widely used. One has to play the percentages.

Isn't shelter building just another type of escalation of armaments, provoking the Russians to build more rockets? Kosygin himself recently said this is not so, and the Russian shelter program is much more extensive than ours.

Will not shelters give us a more warlike psychology and make us less concerned for peace? On the contrary, shelter building should give us a more sober and realistic concern by making the dangers seem more real. Shelters will improve our chances, but they will not make war a lark or a joy.

Professor Wigner (a Nobel laureate) and his co-authors consider these old questions along with many new ones in the light of recent military and technological developments. One recommendation is for a public tunnel-grid blast shelter system in cities, the main location proposed for Detroit being at Meyers Road and Schoolcraft Avenue. The interconnected system would have many advantages over isolated shelters--but it also has the perhaps overwhelming disadvantage of requiring a political decision, hence probably just won't be built. Nevertheless, the book is one that deserves a wide reading by responsible citizens and family heads.

Meanwhile, we as individuals must calculate the chances and make our own decisions. For cryonics, there are important policy questions involving the permanent storage facilities. Should we attempt to make them bomb-proof and self sufficient, when money is so desperately short? Until now, we have effectively ignored such considerations, but a reappraisal may be required before long. In making it, we should certainly consult Dr. Wigner's book.

Robert Ettinger

PROBLEMS AND HOPES OF THE OLD

The old, who make up the remnants of a previous generation, are seldom given much attention. Most of us go through life unaware of their problems. Un-

like the young, there is little chance for the aged to keep pace with the trends of society. The current decline and "rehabilitation" of our cities has left many who have reached 60, 65 or 70 segregated and apart from the world they knew for so long. The old seem to be creatures marking time. In a goal oriented world they have lost or given up their lifetime ambitions and wait silently, reassured only by faith in some mystical afterlife.

In a recent issue of PSYCHOLOGY TODAY, a report entitled, "The Abuse of the Urban Aged," by James A. Birren, has outlined part of the extensive physical problems being faced by some 19 million old people:" . . . they remain in unattractive, inadequate and necessarily inexpensive housing, trying to cope with the inadequacies of the contemporary city, getting less and less a fair share of its goods and services . . . . planning for them . . . often comes only as an afterthought."

Yet, the major problems being faced are emotional ones. Too many of the aged lose identity in a peer group when they are uprooted from their homes and transplanted to a new and more modern but unfamiliar location. As a result the dreaded loneliness of old age begins to close in. Very quickly the old feel at a standstill and their self-esteem and will to live decreases.

Other Cultures

Some cultures, it has been noted by George A. Pettitt, member of the department of Anthropology at the University of California, have dealt more handily with the problems of the old and their separation from society. In Africa, for example, many of the larger tribes have created a system of age-grades. An individual is born into his particular group and grows up within it. Throughout life the members give each other assistance and aid in their activities. As the members grow old they continue to be comforted by and retain their identity in the group. The extended family in African cultures is also a help in dealing with the problems of the old. All of the children and even the grandchildren remain nearby and of service until the death of the aged ones.

Although, age-grades and extended families aren't really feasible in the United States, it has been observed that their goals could be at least partially served by cryonics. Families whose relatives and ancestors aren't "gone" but are rather only suspended for a time may very well tend to become closer knit. Old people who know that the end of life is imminent could feel less removed from those who are in suspension and be less depressed by the prospect of their own demise, which would no longer be regarded as so final.

Sex and Age

A note of optimism and cheer for the aged existence is sounded by Dr. John Maddison in a new booklet entitled "Sixty Plus", and published by the Family Doctor Unit of the British Medical Association. Dr. Maddison feels that older people simply need more sex to combat the loneliness and frustration they encounter. He suggests that humans never lose their sexual desire and its continuance is important to insure "peace of mind, harmony and satisfaction". He notes the longer life expectancy of ministers as opposed to priests and married people to single ones.

Dr. Maddison also expresses the belief that aging itself will soon be brought under control.

The important points to be recognized in regard to the aged is that care, consideration and psychological reassurance,

such as that offered by cryonics, must be built in and not hashed in, that the problems and the hopes of our senior citizens must be planned for in advance in all spheres of social activity.

Patrick Dewey

REMINDER

Are you passing on your extra copy of OUTLOOK? By doing so you can help SCM to grow and help the cryonics movement as well.

NATIONAL ANTIPOLLUTION TEACH-IN DAY

April 22nd is National Antipollution Teach-In Day. Bob Ettinger is to be lead off speaker for the presentation at Highland Park Community College.

I hope Bob tells his audience that people are not pollution, and do not deserve (well maybe some do) to be treated like garbage and hidden away to rot, or be incinerated.

M. J.

FIRST COME FIRST SERVED

Another issue raising a lot of dust is abortion. Existing abortion laws are being attacked all over the nation and have recently been liberalized in California and Hawaii.

One of the most difficult obstacles to surmount in talking about cryonics is the fact that, although there may not be too many people on the plant at this moment, predictions of future population figures, based upon what seem to be unassailable mathematical computations, make my desire to be frozen seem purest selfishness. It just doesn't seem that there is going to be room for me.

However, because I am unashamedly selfish, I insist that space be provided for me.

If some have to be denied, let it be the unborn.

No arguments about just when an embryo becomes a person can have the significance of the fact of my existence--and yours. We are here. We deserve first consideration.

M. J.

REGISTRATION

Third Annual National Cryonics Conference

Airport Marina Hotel & Tower, Los Angeles, California, May 15-16, 1970

Name _____
(Include spouse's name if attending)

Profession or Occupation _____

Membership Organization _____

Address _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

Charges:

Conference Registration	$12.50 (per person)	_____
Friday Luncheon:	5.30 " "	_____
Friday Night Banquet	7.40 " "	_____
Saturday Luncheon	5.30	_____
(Tax and Tip included)		
	Total	_____

I enclose $ _____